

Alaska Fishery Matters in Congress.

In the year 1917 various matters affecting the fisheries of Alaska received the attention of Congress. On January 17 the Senate Committee on Fisheries considered the features of the bill (H. R. 17499) which had been reported to the House of Representatives by the committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and had been considered on the floor of the House on December 13, 1916. No general Alaska fisheries bill had been introduced in the Senate.

On February 13 Senator Lane, of Oregon, chairman of the Senate Committee on Fisheries, introduced a general Alaska fisheries bill (S. 8242). A feature of this bill was that it provided a leasing system for the use of pound-net sites. The bill, however, was quite different in many respects from the Alexander bill (H. R. 17499) which had been reported to the House.

On February 14 (calendar day February 17) Senator Fletcher, of Florida, introduced a bill (S. 8271) for the protection, regulation and conservation of the fisheries of Alaska. This bill resembled quite closely the Alexander bill with the exception that it had the added important feature of a leasing system for pound-net sites.

The above mentioned bills automatically expired with the ending of the Sixty-fourth Congress on March 4. Early in the first session of the Sixty-fifth Congress several fisheries bills were introduced. On April 4 Senator Lane introduced a bill (S. 409) which was the same as the bill (S. 8242) which he had introduced in the Sixty-fourth Congress. On April 9 Senator Fletcher introduced an Alaska fisheries bill (S. 1540) which was the same as his bill (S. 8271) introduced in the previous Congress. This bill (S. 1540) was identical with the bill (H. R. 1753) introduced April 4 by Representative

Alexander, of Missouri, chairman of the House Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries. This bill was practically the same as Representative Alexander's bill (H. R. 17499) which had received consideration in the previous Congress.

On May 2 Senator Husting (for Senator Lane) introduced a bill (S. 2144) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to conduct certain fishery operations chiefly with a view to increasing the utilization of neglected aquatic products. This bill authorized an appropriation of \$250,000. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Fisheries but no further action occurred.

On January 10, 1917, the committee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives considered the bill (H. R. 12363) introduced February 26, 1916, by Representative Alexander for the protection and conservation of the halibut fisheries of the Pacific Ocean. This bill proposed to establish a close season for a period of two months in the winter and contemplated the setting aside of a reserved area off the coast of southeastern Alaska as a halibut nursery to be protected throughout the year. This bill was the same as S. 4586 introduced February 21, 1916, by Senator Johnson, of Maine, which bill with an amendment passed the Senate on June 3, 1916. Inasmuch as the Senate bill had received favorable action the committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries reported it to the House of Representatives on January 29, 1917. On February 19 the bill was reached on the Unanimous Consent Calendar in the House of Representatives. Objections prevented consideration of the measure and there was no further opportunity to take it up before the session ended March 4.

On April 4, 1917, Representative Alexander, of Missouri, introduced a bill (H. R. 1748) in the first session of the Sixty-fifth Congress for the

protection and conservation of the halibut fisheries of the Pacific Ocean. On April 9, 1917, Senator Feltcher introduced a bill (S. 1542) of like nature. This bill is the same as S. 4586 which was under consideration in the Sixty-fourth Congress and is also the same as H. R. 1748, introduced April 4 by Representative Alexander.

On January 8, 1917, Senator Lane introduced Senate joint resolution No. 192 requesting the Secretary of State to undertake negotiations with a view to having certain foreign governments join with the United States in an effort to prevent the extermination of whales and walrus on the high seas.